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Docket No. CLT-100
Serial No. 09/629,241Remarks

Claims 14-16, 18-27, and 30-34 and 36-51 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 15-16, 18-19, 21, 24-25, 30, 31, 38, 41-45, 47-49, and 51 have been amended, and claims 37 and 46 have been canceled. The undersigned avers that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 14-16, 18-27, 30-34, 36, 38-45, and 47-51 will be before the Examiner.

Claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 30, 38, 42, 45, 48, 50, and 51 have been amended to replace the term "metal framing member" with the term "metal framing stud member", to be consistent with the language in claims 14 and 47. Claim 16, line 3, has also been amended to add the term "member", which was inadvertently omitted. Claims 25, 30, 38, 42, and 48 have been amended to add "metal", which was inadvertently omitted. Claim 31, line 1, has been amended to correct a typographical error by replacing the term "wiring clip" with the term "method", as claim 31 depends from claim 14. Claims 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49, and 51 have been amended to depend from claim 47, which has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of claim 46 and incorporate the limitations of claim 37 with the limitations of claim 37 amended to replace "metal framing member" with "metal framing stud member". The amendments to the claims have been made in an effort to lend greater clarity to the claimed subject matter and to expedite prosecution. These amendments should not be taken to indicate the applicant's agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejections of record. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

Claims 37-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicates at page 2 "regarding claim 37, lines 12-17, the word 'metal framing stud member' cites combination/subcombination problems, and that 'Metal framing stud member' is not positively cited in the preamble of claim 37." The Examiner also indicates at page 2 "regarding claims 50, and 51, the word 'metal framing stud member' cites combination/subcombination problems, and that 'Metal framing stud member' is not positively cited in the preamble of claims 37 and 45." The applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful reading of

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the claims. Claim 37 has been canceled. Claim 47, which has been indicated as allowable, has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 46 and to incorporate the limitations of claim 37 with the limitations of claim 37 amended to replace "metal framing member" with "metal framing stud member", in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 38, 42, 45, 48, 50, and 51 have also been amended to replace "metal framing member" with "metal framing stud member", to be consistent with the language of claim 47. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 37-51 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 37-38, 41-43, 45-46, and 48-51 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Romeo (U.S. Design Patent No. 413,471). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 37 and 46 have been canceled, and claims 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48-49, and 51 have been amended to depend from claim 47, which has been indicated as allowable. Claim 42 depends from claim 41 and claim 50 depends from claim 45. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection 37-38, 41-43, 45-46, and 48-51 under 35 USC §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 39, 40, and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Romeo (U.S. Design Patent No. 413,471). The applicant respectfully traverses this grounds for rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 37 and 46 have been canceled, and claims 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48-49, and 51 have been amended to depend from claim 47, which has been indicated as allowable. Claim 39 depends from claim 38, which depends from claim 47; claim 40 depends from 39; and claim 44 depends from claim 47. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 39, 40, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication, at page 4 of the Office Action that 14-16, 18-27, 30-34, and 36 are allowed and that claim 47 is allowable. As indicated above, claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 30, 38, 42, 45, 48, 50, and 51 have been amended to replace the term "metal framing member" with the term "metal framing stud member", to be consistent with the language in claims 14 and 47. Claim 16, line 3, has also been amended to add "member", which was inadvertently omitted. Claims 25, 30, 38, 42, and 48 have been amended to add "metal", which was

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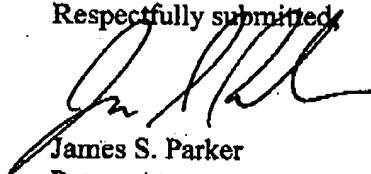
inadvertently omitted. Claim 31, line 1, has been amended to correct a typographical error by replacing the term "wiring clip" with the term "method", as claim 31 depends from claim 14. Claims 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49, and 51 have been amended to depend from claim 47, which has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of claim 46 and to incorporate the limitations of claim 37 with the limitations of claim 37 amended to replace "metal framing member" with "metal framing stud member".

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, the applicant believes that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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